carbonated liquid within the container 10 continues to urge the valve 22 into seated position, thereby preventing the valve from becoming unseated during handling of the container. In other words, the valve member 22 would remain in sealed position with the passageway 18 regardless of the position of the container 10 as long as the container 10 is charged with the carbonated liquid.

After the container 10 is empty, the container 10 is washed by inverting the container to the position shown in FIG. 4 whereby the counterweight 26 moves the sealing portion 23 to the open position shown in FIG. 4. In this position, free discharge of the cleaning solution from the container 10 is permitted. The container 10 is preferably washed by introducing cleaning solution through the conduits 13 and 16 and discharging the residual solution through the passageway 18.

The operation of the apparatus shown in FIG. 5 is identical to the operation of the apparatus shown in FIG. 1. By providing the beveled lower end for the sleeve member 19, the amount of angular movement of the valve 22 is limited. However, by providing the raised portion 57 within the upper surface of the container, the counterweight 26^a is free to move a sufficient distance to permit the sealing portion 23^a of the valve to move from fully seated position to a fully open position, as shown.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that I have devised improved apparatus for filling a container with a carbonated liquid. By providing a gravity actuated valve which automatically moves from a seated position to an open position when an empty container is inverted, my apparatus is particularly adapted for use with automatic washing apparatus, whereby the containers may be washed and handled with a minimum of effort and a minimum of apparatus. Furthermore, by providing means for washing the container without having to remove the cover member therefor, a substantial amount of time and labor is saved in the washing operation. Furthermore, by providing quick closing means for the valve 22 upon removal of the supply means 27 from the container, a minimum amount of the pressure is released as the supply means is withdrawn.

While I have shown my invention in but two forms, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that it is not so limited but is susceptible of various other changes and modifications without departing from the spirit thereof,

and I desire, therefore, that only such limitations shall be placed thereupon as are specifically set forth in the appended claims.

What I claim is:

1. Apparatus for filling a container with a carbonated liquid comprising a filling passageway through the upper portion of the container, a gravity actuated valve mounted within said container and movable by gravity toward seated position relative to said passageway when the container is in an upright position to close said passageway and movable by gravity away from seated position when the container is in an inverted position and empty to open said passageway for cleaning the container, an elongated, vertical supply conduit for said carbonated liquid adapted to enter said passageway and engage said gravity actuated valve, means to impart relative vertical movement between said container and said supply conduit to move said supply conduit into engagement with said gravity actuated valve and inwardly of said container to thereby move said gravity actuated valve away from seated position upon movement in one direction with the container in an upright position and upon movement in the opposite direction with said container in an upright position to remove said supply conduit from said container and thereby release said valve for return by gravity to seated position to close said passageway, and sealing means carried by said supply conduit disposed to seal said passageway upon movement of said supply conduit into said container.

2. Apparatus for filling a container with a carbonated liquid as defined in claim 1 in which the container is provided with a removable cover and said passageway is provided in said removable cover.

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